



www.santafeaudubon.org

and



Santa Fe Audubon Society - Florida

Santa Fe Audubon Society
Melrose, FL



DECEMBER 2022
NEWSLETTER

COMING IN JANUARY

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

Pulitzer Prize Winner

JACK E. DAVIS

<https://history.ufl.edu/directory/jack-e-davis/>

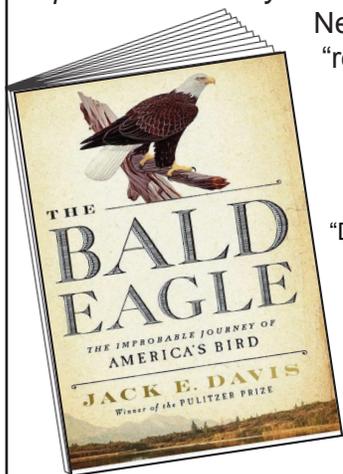
6:45 PM at Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall
204 SR 26, downtown Melrose

You do not need to be a Santa Fe Audubon Society chapter member to attend our Speaker Series programs.

All are welcome!

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jack E. Davis will be talking about his newest book *The Bald Eagle; The Improbable Journey of America's Bird*. A book the

New York Times calls "rollicking, poetic and wise".



"Davis shows us not only what Bald Eagles have meant to humans.... but what it might feel like to be one."

— Jonathan Meiburg

"The story of the Bald Eagle and its human champions is more complicated- and more interesting than most of us know, full of myth, mischief, and repeated close calls. *The Bald Eagle* by Jack Davis does justice to a grand bird and its epic tale."

— Michelle Nihuis, author of *Beloved Beasts*

The safety of our membership is of utmost importance, and we encourage everyone to wear a mask.

The safety and well-being of our membership and board members is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series and Field Trips may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Cancellation notifications will be sent out via email and posted on our website and Facebook page.

FIELD TRIP

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS

TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com

When you make your reservation, please include your email and phone numbers(s) and please specify if you will meet at Heritage Park or the Field Trip location.

**MASTERS TRACT
STORMWATER
TREATMENT FACILITY**
Saturday January 14, 2023
Alternate weather date Saturday January 21

In an effort to reduce high nutrient levels, specifically Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) in the Lower St Johns River Basin and Deep Creek the county has designed and built a system of wetlands to drain and filter stormwater runoff from agricultural and residential areas. Situated near Deep Creek Conservation Area, St. Johns County staff manage water levels in the wetland cells to mimic the natural wet and dry seasons.

Sandhill Cranes, numerous waders, migrating warblers, and raptors are all on the list at this very special location.

Wear good walking shoes, hat, and bring water, binoculars, and a scope if you have one. Sunscreen and bug spray is recommended.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL 2 - May involve uneven terrain; 1-2 miles

Celina Rohman and Laura Berkleman will be your contacts for this Field Trip.

NO RESTROOMS AT THIS LOCATION

To caravan from Melrose on the west side of
Heritage Park at **7:30 AM**

Or Masters Tract at **8:30 AM**
7756 Hub Bailey Rd, Hastings, FL 32145

**A complete listing of future Programs,
Field Trips and Activities is on page 4**



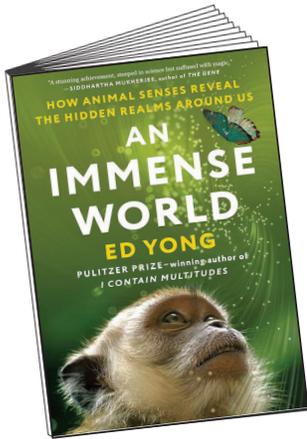
RECOMMENDED READING

by Jacqueline Williamson

AN IMMENSE WORLD

HOW ANIMAL SENSES REVEAL
THE HIDDEN REALMS AROUND US

by Ed Yong

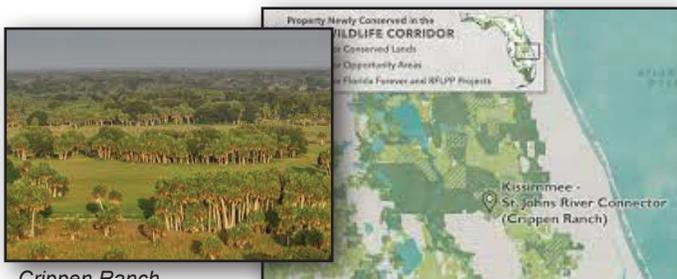


From Pulitzer prize winning author, Ed Yong, comes this riveting book that delves into the myriad ways that animals perceive the world. A must read for anyone curious about the natural world and the sensory biology of other species.

GOOD NEWS

by Jacqueline Williamson

615 ACRES IN FLORIDA WILDLIFE CORRIDOR PERMANENTLY PRESERVED



Crippen Ranch
photo by Carlton Ward

Conservation Florida and the Florida DEP have conserved the 615 acre Crippen Ranch in the northern Everglades. Located in north central Okeechobee County and connected to the Kissimmee Prairie Preserve State Park, this property provides critical habitat for the Florida Grasshopper Sparrow, Black Bear, Crested Caracara, Gopher Tortoise, and neotropical migratory birds.

The conservation easement placed on the ranch permanently prohibits development on the property. Thanks to Crippen Ranch owner Scott Crippen and all the stakeholders that made this possible.

BIRD OF THE MONTH

BALD EAGLE

(*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

band code "BAEA"

The Bald Eagle has been the national emblem of the United States since 1782 and a spiritual symbol for native people for far longer than that. These regal birds aren't really bald, but their white-feathered heads gleam in contrast to their chocolate-brown body and wings. Look for them soaring in solitude, chasing other birds for their food, or gathering by the hundreds in winter. Once endangered by hunting and pesticides, Bald Eagles have flourished under protection.



COOL FACT:

The largest Bald Eagle nest on record, in St. Petersburg, Florida, was 2.9 meters in diameter and 6.1 meters tall. Another famous nest—in Vermilion, Ohio—was shaped like a wine glass and weighed almost two metric tons. It was used for 34 years until the tree blew down.

For more information about Bald Eagles visit:

[HTTPS://WWW.ALLABOUTBIRDS.ORG/GUIDE/BALD_EAGLE/OVERVIEW](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/bald_eagle/overview)

Fun Fact: A group of Eagles has many collective nouns, including "aerie", "convocation", "jubilee", "soar" and "tower".

*Little Orange Creek Preserve
Field Trip
November 19, 2022*



Anhinga



Eastern Phoebe

ABOUT FIELD TRIPS

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT EMAIL
santafeaudubonfl@aol.com**

*We all must remember to maintain safe personal distancing.
We suggest you bring your face mask just in case it is needed.
It is easy to forget during the excitement of bird watching.*

BRING: Water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and face covering.

Please, NO SHARING OPTICS. The field trip contact has sanitized binoculars to loan.

WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES.

Field Trip contacts keep waiting lists in case of a cancellation.

Stay hydrated, be safe and have FUN!

CARAVAN FROM MELROSE

Please arrive early and be ready to leave with your supplies: water, binoculars, hat, sunscreen, rain gear and **STURDY WALKING SHOES.**

Santa Fe Audubon has extra binoculars to lend.

Meet on the **west side** of Melrose Heritage Park, SR 26, downtown Melrose. Or meet at the field trip site. When you make your reservation, please specify if you will meet at Heritage Park or the Field Trip location.



BIRDING ETHICS (including photography)

Practical guidelines that aim to mitigate the stress birds and their habitats face when humans intrude.

- Leave pets home
- Bring binoculars
- Mute cell phones
- Gently close vehicle doors
- Talk softly/whisper
- Keep bird call playback and pishing to a minimum.
- Walk quietly in woods (pick up feet)
- Avoid using a flash when taking photographs
- Keep your distance
- DO NOT flush or disturb birds (especially during spring nesting season)
- Stay on established trails
- Be alert for bird sounds/movements
- Coughing/sneezing? Stay away from group or, if possible, in vehicle
- Respect other birders
- Wear earth tone color clothing, when possible
- Stay hydrated and safe

SPEAKER SERIES PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Speaker

WILLIAM J. (Bill) COOPER

“Birds of Costa Rica”

MARCH 14, 2023

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Conservationist of the Year

Photography Show & Election of Officers

APRIL 11, 2023

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Speaker

DR. ABBY POWELL

“Masters of Migration:
Amazing Shorebird Journeys”

MAY 9, 2023

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Speaker

CYNTHIA BARNETT

“The Sound of the Sea:
Seashells and the Fate of the Oceans”

FIELD TRIPS and ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2023

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

CONES DIKE

at Paynes Prairie

FEBRUARY 17 - 20

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK

for waterfowl & more

MARCH 2023

SUNDAY

(MARCH DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

BIRD BANDING

at Prairie Creek

APRIL 2023

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

GUANA TOLOMATO MATANZAS

NATIONAL ESTUARINE

RESEARCH RESERVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

BOLEN BLUFF

at Paynes Prairie for Spring migration

MAY 2023

SATURDAY, MAY 6

SWEETWATER WETLANDS PARK

for Bobolinks & more

SATURDAY, MAY 27

ANASTASIA STATE PARK

for Shore Birds

The safety and well-being of our participants is our top priority; therefore, our in-person Speaker Series may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to health related concerns. Field Trips may be postponed or canceled on short notice due to weather concerns.

Postponement or cancellation notifications will be sent out via email and posted on our website and Facebook page.